

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 EA-13 NSCE-00 NSC-10 PM-03 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DPW-01 SCS-01 SCA-01

RSR-01 /059 W

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R 180308Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8950

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4647

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN

SUBJ: SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS

REF: SEOUL 4556

SUMMARY: KNRC CHIEF NEGOTIATOR YI BOM-SOK SAID
LATEST SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS SESSION IN PYONGYANG WAS
TOUGHEST YET WITH NO SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. CHIEF ROK RED CROSS NEGOTIATOR YI BOM-SOK TOLD
EMBOFF THAT LATEST SESSION SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS
WAS "TOUGHEST YET". YI SAID NORTH KOREAN REPS
CONSTANTLY TRIED TO PROVOKE HIM INTO ILL-TEMPERED OR
ILL-CONSIDERED STATEMENTS. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS
NORTH KOREANS ALSO WERE MORE AGGRESSIVELY PROPAGANDISTIC.

2. YI SAID THAT OBVIOUSLY THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIVE
PROGRESS. NORTH KOREANS WERE CLEARLY EMBARRASSED BY
HIS PROPOSAL, FOR A PILOT PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES TO VISIT
FAMILY TOMBS, WHILE REJECTING IT. FOR HIS PART, YI
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REFUSED INSTANTLY NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL FOR FIVE-POINT

JOINT STATEMENT IN EFFECT ENDORSING RESOLUTION OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY ISSUES ON NORTH KOREA'S TERMS. YI SAID JOINT STATEMENT WAS BUT ANOTHER INDICATOR OF THE NORTH'S POSITION, MAKING PROGRESS ON POLITICAL/ SECURITY ISSUES AS THE PREREQUISITE FOR PROGRESS IN RED CROSS TALKS. YI THOUGHT THIS NORTH KOREAN POSITION WOULD CERTAINLY CONTINUE THROUGH NEXT UNGA AND HE SAW NO SIGNS OF NORTH KOREAN FLEXIBILITY.

3. YI ALSO INDICATED THAT NORTH KOREANS BROUGHT UP ROK FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE, CHARGING THAT ROKG WAS DIVIDING THE COUNTRY. AFTER ONE OF THE EVENING FUNCTIONS, YI SAID ALL OF HIS DELEGATION WITH EXCEPTION OF HIMSELF WERE INVITED OUT FOR DRINKS ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS BY THEIR COUNTERPARTS. IN EACH OF THESE ENGAGEMENTS, NORTH KOREANS CONTINUED TO HAMMER AT THE THEME THAT SOUTH WAS DIVIDING THE PENINSULA AND THAT PROPOSAL FOR DUAL UN ADMISSION WOULD PERPETUATE DIVISION. ROK DELEGATES HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY INSTRUCTED AND QUIERIED NORTH KOREANS AS TO WHY NORTH ITSELF HAD IN LATE 50'S WANTED UN ADMISSION. YI SAID NORTH KOREANS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY UNBRIEFED ON THIS AND IN SOME CASES WERE "DUMBFOUNDED" TO FIND NORTH KOREA HAD AT ONE TIME SOUGHT UN MEMBERSHIP.

4. MORE GENERALLY, YI SAID NORTH KOREANS EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WOULD "WIN" IN THE UN NEXT FALL, SECURING THE TERMINATION OF UNCURK AND THE UNC.

5. YI CONFIRMED THAT NEXT RED CROSS MEETING WOULD BE IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR BEGINNING OF OCTOBER, AFTER COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING NOW PLANNED FOR SOMETIME IN EARLY OR MID-SEPTEMBER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SEOUL04647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HABIB
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730725/aaaaaskm.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 SEOUL 4556
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Oct-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <30-Nov-2001 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, KS, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005